

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP:H.F.WILSON:BT
APPROVED BY ARA/LA:R.G. ARELLANO
ARA/RPP:C.E.FINAN
ARA/RPP:S.M.QUIGG
ARA/PPC:L.EINAUDI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MASS, MORG, PGOV

SUBJECT: US-LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONS

1. DEPARTMENT STUDIES ARE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY CONCERNING FUTURE US-LATIN MILITARY RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF US POLICIES AND LAW AND INCREASED THIRD COUNTRY ACTIVITY IN THE REGION. SPECIFICALLY, THE STUDIES ARE EXAMINING EXISTING AND POTENTIAL USG, US MILITARY, AND INDIVIDUAL US SERVICE TIES WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY. THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS AND ARMS CONTROL WILL ALSO BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE CHIEFS OF MISSIONS CONFERENCE (27 FEBRUARY-1 MARCH).

2. THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING US INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES IN CONTINUING TIES TO THE
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LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY ARE REQUESTED NOT LATER THAN THE
END OF JANUARY 1978.

A. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE CONTINUED USG AND US TIES WITH YOUR
HOST COUNTRY MILITARY NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS
WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT, (E.G., WITH THE MILITARY AS A
MAJOR SECTOR TO SERVE AS AN AVENUE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND

A MEANS OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE), AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO US SECURITY NEEDS?

B. WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATE OF USG, US MILITARY, AND INDIVIDUAL US SERVICE RELATIONS WITH YOUR HOST COUNTRY MILITARY, AND WHAT DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE IS PLACED UPON THOSE RELATIONSHIPS BY THE HOST COUNTRY?

C. WITHIN CURRENT US POLICY, WHAT NEAR AND MID-TERM ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN TO MEET THE MUTUAL NEEDS OF US AND HOST COUNTRY MILITARY?

D. WITH ARMS SALES REDUCED OR ELIMINATED, HOW CAN THE HOST MILITARY SERVE THEIR INTERESTS THROUGH US TIES? IN THE ABSENCE OF US ARMS TRANSFERS, CAN THE US SUFFICIENTLY SERVE ITS OWN AND HOST INTERESTS BY SUPPORT AND ADVICE CONCERNING: TYPES OF EQUIPMENT BEING PURCHASED FROM THIRD COUNTRIES, RATIONALIZATION OF INVENTORIES, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS, MILITARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, TECHNICAL TRAINING, ABSORPTION OF NEW ARMS, ETC.?

E. HOW LARGE A ROLE CAN PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS, ATTENDANCE AT US MILITARY SCHOOLS, ETC., PLAY IN SERVING BROAD US INTERESTS?

F. WHAT ARE THE EMBASSY'S CURRENT EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL

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NEAR AND MID-TERM TRENDS FOR HOST COUNTRY EXPENDITURES FOR ARMS FROM THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIERS?

3. WHILE EXTENSIVE, THE ABOVE QUESTIONS OBVIOUSLY DO NOT COVER THE FULL RANGE OF US RELATIONS WITH THE LATIN MILITARY. ADDITIONAL INPUTS ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT IN YOUR RESPONSE ARE WELCOME AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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